

Comment on Media Ownership (Docket 06-121)

Kathleen Warren  
1402 Third Avenue, Suite 1220  
Seattle, WA 98101

Nov. 30 2006

**FILED/ACCEPTED**

**JAN - 9 2007**

**Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary**

Hi, my name is Kathleen Warren. I was a working reporter for more than 20 years. I am here because of my outrage and my heartbreak over what has happened to my former profession. And, to me, much of the degraded state of reporting today is directly attributed to growing media consolidation.

When I worked for KIRO News Radio, I reported exclusively for KIRO. But now, KIRO is part of a much [...] group of radio stations, and this gets to the crux of the problem. Broadcast reporters today, they don't have any time. Instead of just reporting for KIRO, they are rewriting their stories for the web and for all of the other radio stations that are a part of that group.

I am not complaining about KIRO specifically, because this is happening everywhere; it is just that I happen to know that station. Instead of each station having its own newsroom, you have one newsroom that is serving several different stations. Instead of being out on the streets or at City Hall or digging up stories and researching, reporters are simply rewriting the same old stories for the multiple outlets that they now have to service. And because they are not out and able to work a beat, develop stories, research, or even just think – they don't have the information. More importantly, they don't have the self-confidence to really dig to ask hard questions, to take the flack that comes when you ask hard questions and write the story that is not the story that has just been laid out for you.

When you don't have time to listen and you don't have time to ask questions, the result is this enormously heavy dependency on spot news. Fires, homicides, crimes... any reporter will tell you those are the easiest stories to report about. They require the fewest amounts of resources and the least experienced reporters. The other thing that happens is press releases get turned into stories and a lot of big stories are not pursued simply because reporters are spread too thin with too many 'masters' to serve. What we get instead is simply rewriting the newspaper or a press release. I should say today that I work for a public relations agency, and if you can afford to pay me, I can get you on the air or in print because I know how to serve it up and reporters are desperate for that. Thanks.

Comment on Media Ownership (Docket 06-121)

**FILED/ACCEPTED**

Suzanne Blais (Black Dog Productions)  
2636 Cherry St.  
Bellingham, WA 98225

**JAN - 9 /007**

**Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary**

Nov. 30 2006

My name is Suzanne Blais. I am the owner of Black Dog Productions in Bellingham, Washington. We have about five employees. All of us have an average of 20 years experience in commercial television.

So, you have heard a lot of 'back in the day stories' today. Here is one more: Back when I started 20 years ago, I started out in market 187, a little town called Eureka, CA. For about 30,000 people, we had three commercial stations of license and a PBS stations and a PEG channel. Today, in Bellingham (halfway between Seattle and Vancouver -- a town of 60,000 people), we have two stations of license; one of them is a virtual repeater for a home shopping network and the other one is owned by Clear Channel.

Last year about this time, they got rid of their entire engineering department and moved it to Tulsa -- where they are now multi-cast. So our station in Bellingham is actually being aired in Tulsa. It's amazing to me that in 20 years there has been such a degradation in what is available to the average consumer to be able to watch and to have access to.

I am here today to tell you that I have a family, I have a business, and I belong to a community, and in no way are my interests being served by what is being proposed by your three fellows. I would like to encourage you, please, to keep up your efforts on our behalf. Thank you.

Comment on Media Ownership (Docket 06-121)

**FILED/ACCEPTED**

Kenneth Meyer  
1509 N 143<sup>rd</sup> St  
Seattle, WA 98133

**JAN - 9 7 1107**

**Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary**

Nov. 30 2006

I am Kenneth Meyer, citizen 34, which is unfortunately not my age. Some [...] said -- before the Commissioner repeated it today -- that network TV news amounts to murder, sports, and weather. Well, I don't think it matters much who provides this non-controversial and least-common denominator stuff. People have complained about homogenized news, but in point of fact, we have the customary set of network stations in this town owned by different entities and, still, how much difference is there between them? Very little, as far as I can see.

Well, how can we force them to be different? I mean, at least until I become emperor and reconstitute the guillotine. I see no alternative, really, but to write them off. We need to do it ourselves. We need to prevent larger broadcasters of any ilk from encroaching on the bandwidth (that should be dedicated to local and community programming) by either increasing their power to expand their covered area or confiscating of frequency entirely - which has been attempted in this state several times recently.

Community radio and low power FM stations provide a focused approach to news analysis and local issues; the fact is that we are undergoing an unprecedented revolution - often compared to the reinvention of the printing press. As the country finally enters the world of multi-megabit networks, the opportunity for new sources of information proliferates. Where you can see this is going is that the internet is going to provide this. Other people have denied that it will, but I believe that it will, and that as the internet matures, we will have more and more use of it. Newspapers will migrate to the internet more and more as they have started to now.

So, the real danger is that entities that provide the network access also provide the content and so the bottom line to me is network neutrality will go a long way to saving public participation in the media. Thank you.

Comment on Media Ownership (Docket 06-121)

**FILED/ACCEPTED**

Jan Strout  
PO Box 22754  
Seattle, WA 98122

**JAN - 9 7/1107**

**Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary**

Nov. 30 2006

Good evening. Thank you again for coming back to Seattle and being a part of our media revolution here. My name is Jan Strout, and I work with the National Organization for Women and similar areas in media activism and education. I would like to just say a few things that hopefully haven't been totally said.

I believe that the role of media is ensuring access to independent and diverse information as education and educational opportunities to securing our rights, our advancement, and our liberation. That is why I think [...] to peoples here and elsewhere, we are denied access to information by suppression of education, and later in segregated and unequal schooling. That is why women were denied (and in some parts of the world are still denied) access to information, and our rights are worse; women were believed to be incapable or physically at-risk when we were denied higher education or certain types of jobs.

This experience of women and communities of color -- and many, many others -- around the right to information for our empowerment, for our own rights, and own choices and possibilities for changing the conditions of our lives, our families, and our communities (as well as our nation and the world) is how I believe people overall are being impacted by media monopoly and ownership consolidation (the loss of localism, public interest, and diverse points of view).

Women are both tired and outraged about our media representation -- when they exist or when they don't. We are either bimbos, bachelor-seeking brides, or we are being swapped as wives. We are white, we are thin, we are rich, and we are shoppers who must consume at all costs -- and let's not forget nip and tuck for the women's ultimate sacrifice.

Or, we are completely missing in action as journalists, as commentators, experts, media owners, elected leaders, or FCC Commissioners (you guys are good, though). And, finally, [we are missing] as subjects of stories that matter to our lives. So we have the issues and the perspectives we can offer: alternative values, priorities, life experiences, and places of hope and inspiration. That is what I think our media needs for best serving the public interest. I would like to thank both of you for representing that so well and to keep fighting for even more. I appreciate it. Thanks.

Comment on Media Ownership (Docket 06-121)

JAN - 9 2007

Doug Underwood  
2610 W. Smith St  
Seattle, WA 98199

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Nov. 30 2006

Hello, my name is Doug Underwood. I am an associate professor in the University of Washington's Department of Communication, a former Seattle Times reporter for six and a half years, and I also started my career working for [...], the largest newspaper-chain owner.

I want to just talk about a couple things. I have been in the Seattle area either working as a faculty member teaching journalism or as a reporter since 1981. One of the things I did at the University of Washington for fifteen years was run their internship program in Olympia, where students went down to cover government news for newspapers in the state. When I was first in Olympia myself as a reporter in 1981, there were four full-time news bureaus from the Seattle television stations and there were 12 to 15 full-time radio reporters, as well as 12 to 15 journalists covering the State of Washington (with its more than 100 agencies and governor and legislature). Today, there are no television journalists permanently stationed in Olympia and there is one radio reporter in Olympia; there are about 30% fewer newspaper reporters than there used to be. That is to cover the entire complex of state government.

As we know, the model for news in broadcast is to simply -- and has been for probably the last fifteen years -- to eliminate coverage of public affairs. It is one reason why there are no cameras here, of course. With cross-ownership, my fear is that the news-coverage model of broadcast can and likely will push what has been the model for newspaper coverage.

Right now, the information pyramid in this region depends on newspapers. Seven Pulitzer Prizes have been won by the Seattle Times and the P-I in the last 20 years. Coverage of Boeing safety issues and the 737, Alaska Air safety air issues, a US senator that had to leave office, and coverage of other important issues... the broadcast news industry does not do this. If, in fact, the model continues to work the way it will, if there is consolidation... what people I don't think often realize is that it is very likely that it will be what has led to the elimination of news coverage in our state capitol that will begin to dominate all media industry in this region, and I think it could be really severe. This is very important what you folks are doing, and I hope you stay with it. Thank you.

Comment on Media Ownership (Docket 06-121)

Jerome Chroman  
438 N.E. 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
Seattle, WA 98115-5409

Nov. 30 2006

**FILED/ACCEPTED**

**JAN - 9 2007**

*Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary*

Hi. I am Jerome Chroman, and as a member of a local Unitarian Universalist congregation, I strongly affirm the Unitarian Universalist principle that calls for a responsible search for truth and meaning. I believe that, in a democracy, the media plays a crucial role in enabling this search for truth and meaning to take place. When consolidation of media in the hands of just a few of the wealthiest individuals and corporations takes place, that search gets placed on the back burner and is replaced by a search for profit and power for the corporate executives and the stockholders.

The search for truth is elusive, and I believe that when we maximize the number of voices that are engaged in this pursuit, we have a greater chance of finding it or at least coming closer than when we allow just a few voices to have primary access to the citizenry. Let's make sure we open up the media playing-field to as much diversity as we can so we can all have the benefit of hearing as wide an array of opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints as possible -- not just from the privileged few who can afford to buy up the media and apparently give credence to the old maxim that 'freedom of the press goes only to those who own it.' Thank you.

Comment on Media Ownership (Docket 06-121)

FILED/ACCEPTED

Robert Kam (Thurston County Community Television)  
1900 Black Lake Blvd SW Apt AA1  
Olympia, WA 98512

JAN - 9 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Nov. 30 2006

My name is Robert Kam. I work for Thurston Community Television in Olympia, Washington (the public access channel). I need to start off by thanking you guys for doing what you're doing... for going around the country, for sitting through these long meetings. I know about your efforts because I have cable, and I can see it on C-SPAN. I have never seen it on any of the major networks, and it goes without saying that this will be un-televised tonight in the Seattle area.

I work in television and I love working in television, but I hate what's happened in television and I hate what is happening to the people that work in television's salaries. I hope that when you deconsolidate the media -- we know you will -- that our salaries will go back up and it will be a great day. I work in public access so that I can avoid working for these media conglomerations; public access is a wonderful experiment on cable that is the most democratic media that we have so far and instead of it being flourished and being given more funding and an FCC license (so we can graduate from cable to broadcast, God forbid) we are being defunded constantly thanks to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, state-wide franchising, and the threat of national franchising. In fact, in Seattle five years from now, SCAN (the public access channel here) will be de-funded. It will have zero money coming from cable franchising; thankfully I work in Olympia, and, we are safe.

I didn't always want to work in public access, I used to want to work in television news; but, we know -- everybody here said it -- there is something wrong with our news. I am so sick and tired of hearing about Brittany Spears and Kevin Federline or Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes as Jon Stewart would say, 'it is a slow news day.' It has been a slow news decade since 1996. Now, in addition to you deconsolidating media, you need to do some positive things to help the little guy foster public access... give them FCC licenses, grant more low-power FM, fund PBS and grant more independently owned television channels FCC licenses. Thank you.

Comment on Media Ownership (Docket 06-121)

Jim Nibblett  
3643 Palatine Ave N  
Seattle, WA 98103

Nov. 30 2006

FILED/ACCEPTED

JAN - 9 / 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Hi. I am Jim Nibblett. I am a theorist. Now, I have heard all the jokes. Okay, a theorist is a general who doesn't have person skills; he is a philosopher who can do the math. Okay, here's the theory: we, the people, in order to form a more perfect union, provide for the common defense [...] Katrina. If somebody raises their hand and says I promise to do my best to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution, and then don't, what's to do? And that's what we've got right now. We've got habeas corpus as part of the Constitution, and it just went away the other day. And, we don't have a media that will point out that fact, that hypocrisy, that corruption. I offer to you what you can do.



Comment on Media Ownership (Docket 06-121)

Mary Kathryn Rountree  
116 E. 3rd St., #201  
Moscow, ID 83843

**FILED/ACCEPTED**

**JAN - 9 2007**

*Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary*

Nov. 30 2006

Mr. Commissioners, I am Mary Kathryn Rountree from Radio Free Moscow in Moscow, Idaho. We are a low-power FM station, and we epitomize what local radio can and should be. We broadcast local candidate forums, call-in shows, public hearings, diverse music that commercial radio will not touch. Low-power FM should no longer be secondary to full-power FM stations that want to increase power or move in on our signals.

Low-power FM also should have priority over satellite-fed translator stations that are taking over almost every available FM frequency across rural America. They broadcast from thousands of miles away. Finally low-power FM should be allowed to exist on third adjacent channels -- making room for thousands of more community radio stations and, for the first time, allowing low-power FM into large- and medium-sized cities where it is needed most. The Congressionally-mandated MITRE study has shown the low-power FM on third adjacent frequencies causes no significant interference to full power stations. Mr. Commissioners, I urge you to let low-power FM flourish throughout the country.

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Comment on Media Ownership (Docket 06-121)

**JAN - 9 2007**

John Anthony Yost  
77 S. Washington St.  
Seattle, WA 98125

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Nov. 30 2006

Good evening. My name is John Anthony Yost. I write for Your Life in Print. You know that our nation is built on our principles of democracy. We appeal, as a people, and as a nation, that our government keep a fair and open market in our media and also to open to business ideas and good concepts. When there is no free market, there is less service, there is less variety, and there is power concentrated in the hands of a few. I know for a fact that America does not want a corporate media that is run by the state. We want it for all the people and the public wants a fair and balanced free-market media. Competition spurs better services and better product. The other information helps us all live better lives. After all, we are all the public. Thank you and good night.

Comment on Media Ownership (Docket 06-121)

FILED/ACCEPTED

Larry Hildes  
P. O. Box 5405  
Bellingham, WA 98225

JAN - 9 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Nov. 30 2006

My name is Larry Hildes. I am the litigation director for the National Lawyers Guild Center for Democratic Communications (among other hats that I wear). Thank you again Commissioners for coming. It speaks volumes that the empty space where the three commissioners who, at this point, have majority control of what the FCC does are out there in the void, and those commissioners cannot be bothered to hear the voices of the people. That speaks volumes to how much they care. It speaks volumes to how much they care that in spite of the Courts of Appeals ruling that media diversity [...] that increasing the monopoly, that cutting the caps is against the mandate of the FCC that they are trying to do it again. We appreciate you being here, we appreciate your keeping up the fight. Thank you.

Most of the time when I deal with the FCC, it's – frankly – adversarial. We represent a community radio station in Brattleboro, Vermont, that couldn't get a license. There was no community station in Brattleboro before they went on the air. There was no radio station really for Brattleboro before they went on the air. The answer of the FCC to repeated requests was to try to drive the station that was there off the air, and we responded by pointing out that the FCC was – had abandoned its pre-emption of the field. It was not fulfilling its role on behalf of the public by not promoting diversity, by not promoting local stations, by allowing further and further consolidation. We were able to defeat an injunction and then, only then, finally a license was given to a community group to operate a station in Brattleboro, Vermont (a place that is in a valley that can't get commercial radio).

As my wife mentioned, we have no public – no TV stations in Bellingham; we have a repeater for Northwest Public Radio, and we have one LPFM station that's a museum that will not broadcast anything that happened after 1945. This is supposed to be community for us? We have half a newspaper that couldn't be bothered to cover the primary elections back in September because the primaries weren't newsworthy, that will not cover any public demonstration, that will not cover most public events.

We ask that you keep up the fight. We ask that you do your job. Don't tell us that NPR is an alternative. Yesterday for the first time, my wife and I heard a discussion on NPR, and they were talking about the repression of the media and the fact that the media was saying whatever the government was telling them. I nudged Karen and said, 'Look. They are finally covering this!' And then the words 'Vladimir Putin' came out, and we found where they were really covering this. Consolidation will hurt this country. It destroys democracy. It destroys community. Thank you.

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**JAN - 9 2007**

**Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary**

Comment on Media Ownership (Docket 06-121)

Karen Weill  
P. O. Box 5405  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Nov. 30 2006

Thank you. Hi, my name is Karen Weill. I am from Bellingham, Washington. In 1985, I had been a reporter for approximately eleven years. I want to tell you why I was fired. I was fired because -- as the editor for a local paper -- I had run a headline that said that there were some junior high students who had been caught with marijuana. The primary person who had been caught was the son of our biggest advertiser. He called my publisher and said that if we did not run a retraction and an apology he was going to pull his advertising. And I was fired because I refused.

This is what media consolidation leads to. In Bellingham, there is not one local TV station, as Susan mentioned earlier. There is only one local radio [...] station and it is completely conservative talk radio except for one hour out of every 24. There is one hour of a "liberal" talk show host who is supposed to be balancing the other 23 hours of conservative radio. The Bellingham Herald is our only local daily paper.

They have not covered three major news stories recently. First thing was that the Bellingham City Council passed a 'troops-out resolution,' there was not one word in the paper about that. We have had eight arrests of peace activists in Congressman Rick Larsen's office because they are protesting his refusal to sign the 'Declaration of Peace Pledge'... not one word in our Bellingham Herald. They also refuse to cover the primary results that we had in our local town and county, and the editor refuses to meet with any of us to talk about why his policies somehow allow him not to cover these kinds of stories. I thank you very much for coming. I really appreciate this opportunity to talk. Thank you.

Comment on Media Ownership (Docket 06-121)

Jim McIntosh  
2806 31<sup>st</sup> Ave W  
Seattle, WA 98199

**FILED/ACCEPTED**

**JAN - 9 2007**

**Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary**

Nov. 30 2006

Hi, my name is Jim McIntosh. I am a person who is visually impaired, so radio has been near and dear to me all my life. Thirty years ago -- in the 70's -- we had a lot more variety; we had KUUU, which played nothing but 50's stuff and my favorite was KRAB, which used to play anything from Marxist readings to harpsichord played backwards. I used to work on the Queen Anne station, but what I would like to suggest is opening up more bands and frequencies.

In Europe you will find long wave (which is the band below AM), like 452 and even 252 -- there's a transatlantic 252 station. Short wave is the band above the AM, and both these have a long distance propagation capability with that technology. But this way, someone who is doing a local station like the Vashon one -- streaming out on the internet just to Vashon Island -- they could get one more of these broadcast frequencies if it was made available. Yes, they could broadcast; you could have more stations in the community. So we need more variety and we need more to restrict the corporate consolidation of course. We need more variety. I would like to suggest opening more bandwidth and frequencies. Thank you very much.

JAN - 9 2007

Any public policy seeking to protect diversity in the media must recognize the simple fact that ownership matters. Media consolidation has already led to declines in local and minority ownership as well as the homogenization of content in radio and television. Permitting cross-ownership of newspapers and broadcast stations, or allowing further concentration in local television markets, will only worsen the problems we already have.

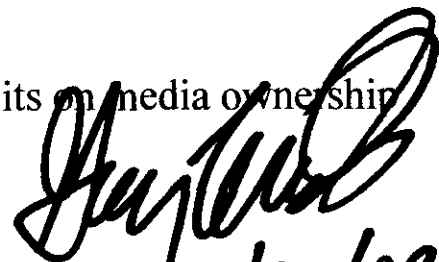
One obvious consequence of the FCC's relaxation of its rules is that the same songs are played every 15 minutes on most radio stations (top 40/hip-hop/rock); and the same right-wing commentators, many of whom openly advocate violence against those they disagree with or look down upon, get a platform without a viable political counter balance; let alone fines or sanctions from the FCC.

Here's a prime example of FCC hypocrisy: Janet Jackson has a so-called 'wardrobe malfunction' on tv, and the FCC swiftly swings into action against ABC and the NFL, but when televangelist Pat Robertson calls for the assassination of the democratically elected president of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, on national television (including numerous satellite affiliates), the FCC remains silent.

We must ask ourselves: what is the FCC's REAL agenda? What political action committee does the FCC answer to? Who pays that committee? Certainly not us, the public.

If the FCC truly works in the public interest, they need to prove it by standing firm against further concentration of media ownership in the hands of the few.

DO NOT relax or eliminate the limits on media ownership anymore than you already have.



11/29/06

107 Pine St #221, San. WA. 98101

# Testify!

If you plan to present spoken testimony at tonight's hearing, please fill out your name and address on this card, to ensure that your testimony is properly attributed. You do not need to write your testimony out on this card - just your name and address will do - but feel free to use it for making notes. Hand in the card to a Reclaim the Media volunteer after testifying.

If you prefer to submit written testimony, you may use this card to do so. Be sure to include your name and address at the bottom, and write clearly; then drop off the card with a Reclaim the Media volunteer before leaving tonight.

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NAME	
710 N. 59th St	
STREET ADDRESS	
STATE	ZIP
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E-mail (list)	

MARK MAGBOMON  
(address attached)

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

When one or two media conglomerates dominate the public discourse, it is no longer a public discourse, but a privately directed one, privy to the particular interests of a media fiefdom that may or may not grant us access to our own information. Our democracy requires the free flow of information from a broad range of diverse voices, including and especially, local community sources. It cannot sustain itself on a steady diet of inane pabulum and homogenized infotainment. Moreover, we must not forget that the airwaves are in fact still public domain. This means that we, as citizens, allow broadcasters to use them- without charge. They earn profits, hundreds of billions of dollars in profits, because we have determined that they are acting in the public interest. Well, they are no longer acting in that interest, and have not been for some time now. We've watched minority ownership in media outlets plummet resulting in ever more centralized and depersonalized media sources. We've seen the diversity and viability of public debate narrow, as independent and dissenting viewpoints are increasingly marginalized.

Equally important is the fate of net neutrality. The Internet has become the new public square and in many ways is the most democratic and vital public forum that we still have. It has been said that, "Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one," and net neutrality assures each of us a stake in that ownership. As common carriers, the telecommunications companies are supposed to offer all customers equal terms of service, yet these companies want to push forward legislation that will most certainly result in the further marginalization of start-ups, small companies, blogs, and many other independent ventures and voices through the implementation of high fees, and possibly outright discrimination against selected content.



I don't see net neutrality as something to be dismissed as "silly" or "mumbo jumbo" as some of these companies' representatives have deemed it, nor do I trust their assurances that they have no intention of limiting access to information- even if that information directly challenges their own interests. Their actions are an overt and brazen attempt to eliminate not just competitors, but competition altogether, and there is no reason to believe that they will not eliminate interests that do not support them, either financially or ideologically. In most situations, there is but one or two Internet providers available to the public in any given locale, thus it is not a question of finding a provider whose practices you agree with; rather it is a question of whether or not you want access to the Internet at all. The profits of these companies are not worth the damage that will be wreaked on the public should this legislation pass. These are unconscionable acts of irresponsibility and cannot be endorsed, cannot be overlooked, and cannot be tolerated by us or our elected representatives in any way, shape, or form. We need to stop this now.

# Testify!

**If you plan to present spoken testimony** at tonight's hearing, please fill out your name and address on this card, to ensure that your testimony is properly attributed. You do not need to write your testimony out on this card - just your name and address will do - but feel free to use it for making notes. Hand in the card to a Reclaim the Media volunteer after testifying.

**If you prefer to submit written testimony**, you may use this card to do so. Be sure to include your name and address at the bottom, and write clearly; then drop off the card with a Reclaim the Media volunteer before leaving tonight.

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Adam Todd		
NAME		
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adam_cs@todds.org		
EMAIL (to sign up for the Reclaim the Media email list)		

Rough notes for a deeply moving speech.

06-121

Good evening

I fear that the deregulation of media ownership and the continued consolidation of newspapers threaten the very core of our democracy. For our democracy to thrive, the people must be informed and hear a variety of opinions, not just those from a handful of corporations. We must preserve our local and independent media ownership.

Please

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- keep and enforce current FCC broadcast rules
- prohibit same-market ownership of newspapers, radio and tv.

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Tonight I'm asking you to be good stewards, not just for the benefit of our community, but for that of the entire nation.

Thank you

Adam Todd

(address added)

06-121



**Testimony regarding Media Ownership Rules  
by Timothy Treanor, Chief Executive Officer--  
Online Video Service of Seattle, WA.**

**JAN - 9 2007**

**Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary**

**Hearing held at the Seattle Public Library  
November 30, 2006**

FCC Commissioners Michael Copps and Jonathan Adelstein, welcome to Seattle and for allowing for this public hearing on Media Ownership Rules. My name is Timothy Treanor and I am the Chief Executive Officer of a Seattle based webcasting services company called Online Video Service.

Online Video Service was started in 1999 and has become one of the leading webcasting service providers for the .gov, .org and .edu marketplaces. Our clients include the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the US Department of Transportation, Office of Pipeline Safety, TV Washington, California Lung Association, Southern Illinois University, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Archdiocese of Seattle to name but a few. I am only speaking on behalf of my company and not of our clients, but I do mention them to demonstrate our understanding of the issues involved with webcasting for the public affairs marketplace and to briefly discuss my company's perspective to the issue of Network Neutrality.

As a public service, we are also webcasting this event live on the Internet, so people around the Nation can watch this proceeding to provide for greater transparency in the policy making process.

Since we founded Online Video Service in 1999, we have been a pioneer in the field of Internet video and have seen the well-hyped promise of Internet broadcasting is starting to become a reality. From faster bandwidth connection speeds, increased PC computing power, greater availability of media players on the desktop and improved compression and storage technology has collectively opened the door to a brand new industry still in its infancy – called Internet Broadcasting.

It is very early but we believe the Internet Broadcasting industry will evolve in many ways following the cable carriage model. Several well known large entertainment properties such as a You Tube will become household names and like the mosaic of the Internet you will find access to all kinds of video programming including public affairs, religious, educational and nonprofits and so on.

The reason why Network Neutrality is an important issue to our company – is that we need to ensure that all programming on the Internet continues to be treated equally. And to prevent that some content, which is said best in the words of George Orwell's book *Animal Farm*, "all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others".

Currently, the Internet is still overwhelming text based and graphics, leaving plenty of backbone capacity for virtually all organizations. But video over the Internet is significantly more complex than text and images and requires dramatically more infrastructure on the backbone to ensure there is enough overall bandwidth capacity. As this build out continues over the next several years, Telco carriers and large content providers could enter business relationships that could start to make their "content more equal than others."

Webcasting public affairs programming is what we call "stakeholder media." For example, several hundred people nationwide are watching this event and webcasting is an important new tool for citizens, corporations and governmental organizations to engage in policymaking and to improve governmental transparency. It engages citizens utilizing new communications technologies. In fact, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California on October 27, 2006 signed Executive Order S-21-06 calling on all California State Agencies to broadcast public meetings over the Internet. We believe more and more governmental entities will also begin to webcast their proceedings over the Internet in the near future.

But to put tonight's audience in perspective, one of the most popular pieces of video content on You Tube is called Crazy Dog – which is a home movie of a dog biting its own tail – that piece of content has been watched more than 6 million times.

Tonight's hearing, and frankly all public affairs programming will never be as popular as say Crazy Dog. However, it will be paramount for governmental organizations to ensure now, that public affairs programming for the .org, .gov and .edu markets continue to receive full and open access to the Internet.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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11.21.06

MB 06-121

To the FCC:

About six years ago, an attempt to hijack a radio station culminated in the lockout of the station manager and the changed entrance locks of the station. The listeners had known for the past year that the tone of the programers had changed, but no one knew why. The many new rules about subject matter and manners of speech seemed odd for a listener supported station. Then, when the Xmas Coup happened, we were in shock! Listeners fled down to New York City from all around the country to protect this entity on the FM dial. The programers didn't know where to broadcast from and some, like Amy Goodman, moved her program, "Democracy Now!" to a firehouse in China town. For so many, this radio 99.5 FM was their Wake-up call, their community news, their creative soul that touched all nationalities and languages and now their breath was taken away.

We fought back, hired lawyers, and won a historic victory, rescuing the network from the corporate hijacking and establishing a new way to run the station. This station is WBAI, one of five listener supported Pacifica Radio Stations across the country.

I am telling you this story because, real, local community voices matter to everyone. Local news is vital to each village and can't be treated the same as the next town or city. I don't want to hear the same news, music, etc. on every radio spot, with hyped up voices saying the same thing meaning nothing!

Thank you.

Joan Grishman



FILED/ACCEPTED  
DEC 20 2006  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary



MB 06-121

**Gary Bischoff**  
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November 21, 2006

Thank you for the opportunity to address this hearing. I am concerned about the state of media in this country both as a citizen and elected official. I am speaking not only as an elected official, but a concerned citizen, a former newspaper columnist and a radio talk show host.

My partner, Art Richter and myself are so concerned about the lack of diverse political prospective that we started a weekly radio show that covers local, state and national issues. For well over a year, we have been hosting *Radio Free Kingston* a call-in show on WKNY out of Kingston, NY on Sunday afternoons. We took positive action on our own to create a program that presents progressive issues, and we encourage our listeners to understand how policies them and how vital it is to get informed and to get involved. One of the topics that we have repeatedly covered is responsible media, and the role of media in our society.

We believe that there is an audience of people that will read newspapers or listen to or watch programming that gives a balanced point of view and informs them about important issues. Local media outlets are critical for citizens to know and understand local issues that directly affect their lives.

As more and more radio stations, TV stations and newspapers get gobbled up by larger and larger companies, the first thing that we loose is coverage of local issues and local government. We need policies that favor local communities and their needs rather than the needs of corporations. Policies must be put in place that promote diverse local ownership of media.

The Federal Communications Commission is charged with monitoring compliance with the public interest requirement. It is vital that the FCC makes sure that broadcast stations truly serve their listening publics' needs. The airwaves are a public resource that must be regulated so that it benefits the greatest number of people rather than being used for the greatest profits. The corporations and wealthy broadcasters should not have more influence over FCC policy than regular citizens.

I urge the FCC to enact and strengthen protections against consolidated corporate ownership.

FILED/ACCEPTED  
DEC 20 2006  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

MB 06-191

**Testimony to Nov. 21 FCC Hearing on Further Media Consolidation  
by Suzy Kass  
Montclair, New Jersey**

Through media content we learn about ourselves - locally, nationally and globally. The more diverse the content, the more nuanced our understanding. It doesn't take sophisticated market analysis to know that public interest suffers as profit becomes paramount. When lobbyists spend millions seeking favorable action from the FCC as they do now, who speaks for us?

The following anecdote illustrates the lack of local coverage as I have experienced it. I come from Montclair NJ, which is part of the metropolitan NY area. In the wake of 9/11, I dealt with my personal distress by becoming more politically active. A few of us started a grassroots group called BlueWaveNJ. During the election season of 2005 we hosted a stem cell forum meant to educate the public as it considered the very different stances held by our gubernatorial candidates. Our forum featured the Dean of Columbia University Medical School; the head of Columbia University's Bioethics Institute and a senior editor from *Newsweek* magazine— this was quite literally a world-class event held in our area and sponsored by our group. Though we distributed press releases widely, not one news source covered it. When our efforts were ignored, we quickly produced 2 television ads, at great personal expense, to achieve our goals. Embryonic stem-cell research ultimately became a signature issue in Jon Corzine's successful campaign, but only through tremendous work and expense were we able to make our voices heard. NY is a huge media market and localism is almost nonexistent but here was a case where the issue had broad impact and we were still unable to be heard. We are left to wonder about the stories and concerns of the people in our community whose voices we rarely hear.

Localism and diversity are the cornerstones of a democratic media system, cornerstones that can be eroded and lost without careful attention. As we compromise them we risk compromising our country and ourselves. We urge the FCC to refrain from making changes that favor yet more media consolidation. If you need better reasons than those I give, a good place to get them might be from your own study, conducted under Chairman Powell's tenure, that shows media consolidation is harmful to local communities.

We ask the FCC to rule in the public interest and preserve the Television-Radio Cross Ownership Rule, the Broadcast-Newspaper Cross Ownership Ban, the National Television Ownership Rule, the Duopoly Rule for Radio, the Local Television Ownership Rule, and the Dual Network Rule.

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC 20 2006

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary



MB 06-121

TESTIMONY BEFORE FCC MEDIA HEARING, November 21, 2006

My name is Pat Lamanna and I live in Poughkeepsie, New York. I am a member of the Dutchess Peace Coalition.

Last October 20, the Dutchess Peace Coalition and the Praxis Program at Marist College hosted a talk by Elizabeth Holtzman on the subject: "The Political Implications of Impeachment." A few days before the talk, a reporter from the Poughkeepsie Journal was contacted and he said he would cover the talk. I also wrote a letter to the Journal to inform their readers, knowing that it would more likely be seen on the letters page than buried in a calendar. Now, the Poughkeepsie Journal has printed just about every letter I have ever sent them. I know they have a policy of not publishing more than one letter by the same writer in a month, but it had been several months since I wrote to them.

The day of the talk came; the reporter from the Poughkeepsie Journal did not. My letter also was not printed. The talk was announced; buried on the calendar page. In my view, an appearance by a former Congresswoman on a topic as important as this should have received more coverage. I can't say that it was not covered for political reasons, but I can say that events of this kind are frequently ignored, while visits to the area by politicians, or even former politicians, for other reasons are generally well-covered.

Also - lack of reporting on SOPA demonstrations.

I'd also like to put in a plug for Net Neutrality. The Internet was alluded to as a partial antidote to the tyranny of the major media outlets. I'm concerned that those same media outlets will move on to take over the Internet. We can't allow that to happen!

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